

REMARKS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection and rejection set forth in the above-mentioned Official Action in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks are respectfully requested.

Claims 1 and 3-8 are now pending in the application, with Claim 1 being the sole independent claim. Claim 2 has been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein. Claims 1 and 3-8 have been amended herein.

Claim 1 was objected to for a minor informality. Claim 1 has been amended in the manner suggested by the Examiner. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection to Claim 1 are respectfully requested.

Applicants note with appreciation the indication that Claims 2-8 recite allowable subject matter. Claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,867,188 (Murayama et al.). The subject matter of Claim 2 has been incorporated into independent Claim 1, and Claim 2 has been cancelled herein. Thus, Claim 1, as well as Claims 3-8, which depend from Claim 1, are believed to be in condition for allowance. The foregoing actions have been taken without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter, and without conceding correctness of the rejection, but rather strictly to obtain an earlier allowance and to expedite issuance.

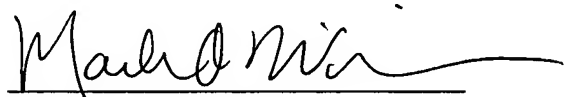
The pending claims are also believed to be allowable over Japanese Laid-Open Patent Application No. 2002-254752 (Sato), which is being cited in the accompanying Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement. Sato relates to a recording apparatus in which a recording head 1 having a card edge 14 can be removably mounted on carriage 3. A card edge connector 13 is mounted in the carriage 3 and movably supported in two dimensions relative to the carriage. A head positioning spring 15 provides a force such that a positioning face 1b and head positioning face 3b press against each other when the recording head is mounted. However, Applicants submit that Sato merely describes that the recording head is inserted into the carriage from above and does not disclose or suggest the features of the lever member recited in the claims.

Thus, the claims are patentable over the citations of record.

Applicants submit that the present application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration, withdrawal of the objection and rejection set forth in the above-noted Office Action, and an early Notice of Allowability are requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark A. Williamson", written over a horizontal line.

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